

24 MAY 1948

46

694

TOP SECRET

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DOS review completed

GENERAL

1. US-UK relations believed deteriorating over Palestine--US
Ambassador Douglas in London believes that "the worst shock" to US-UK collaboration during the past year was the sudden US recognition of Israel without previous notice to the UK. Douglas adds that if the US raises the arms embargo to favor the Jews "it will be only a short step" until the UK may lift its restrictions on arms to the Arabs, thus placing "the two great democratic partners" indirectly on opposite sides of a battle line. Douglas is convinced that the US-UK rift over Palestine can not be confined to Palestine and the Middle East.

In an interview on 22 May, Foreign Secretary Bevin told Douglas that: (a) if the US lifts the arms embargo, it will be impossible for the UK to resist Arab pressure for arms; (b) if the UN declares the Palestine situation to be "a breach of the peace," Bevin believes it probable that the USSR will ultimately interfere in Palestine and the Middle East; and (c) Bevin is personally prepared to examine the position from a "fresh vantage point." Douglas feels that the US should try to relax the pressure on the UK Government by meeting Bevin's suggestions that the US support the substance of the British resolution on Palestine in the UN, retain the arms embargo, and refrain from taking other action until there has been opportunity to make a joint appraisal of the respective US and UK positions.

2. France seeks tripartite conference--French Foreign Minister Bidault has presented to US Ambassador Caffery in Paris a note which urgently recommends direct consultation by the US, the UK, and France. In connection with the recent Smith-Molotov conversations, the note expresses the view that, although an eventual lessening of tension between the USSR and the western world is desirable, it is of primary importance to maintain a unity of policy and action by the US, the UK, and France. This unity, the French maintain, should be based upon:
(a) close association of the three powers

Document 046

• NO CHANGE in Class. DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

Date: 14 MAR 1978 By: _____

State Dept. declassification &
release instructions on file~~TOP SECRET~~

25X1

TOP SECRET
CONFIDENTIAL

decisions in preference to separate negotiations; (b) an unchanged policy of opposition to Soviet attempts to dominate Europe; (c) continued rehabilitation of western Europe; (d) continued organization of the defense of the western world, with US assistance; and (e) an avoidance of any appearance of giving provocation to the USSR.

3. US delegates oppose French view on western Germany --
US Ambassador Douglas reports that the US delegation to the London tripartite conference on western Germany unanimously believes that although the French opposition to the establishment of a western German government may be inspired by real apprehension of Soviet reaction, French leaders are using the occasion as an opportunity to bargain for armament from the US and to obtain other concessions. Douglas recommends that if the French persist in their attitude the US should persuade the UK to establish jointly a provisional German government in the US-UK zone as schedule 1, and to reserve action on the Ruhr and French security guarantees pending clarification of the French position. Douglas also recommends that attempts be made in Washington and Paris to persuade the French to agree to the time schedule. Douglas suggests further that if the UK is not prepared to proceed without the French, the present talks be recessed until the situation can be reappraised.

TOP SECRET
CONFIDENTIAL